

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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TAGS: OVIP, IC (ROGERS MORTON)

SUBJECT:MORTON'S SPEECH AT 1100TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SUGGESTED REMARKS TO BE MADE BY SECRETARY MORTON AT THINGVELLIR. QUOTE MR. PRESIDENT, MR. PRIME MINISTER, MR. PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED ALTHING, MR. JUSTICES, EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THIS HISTORIC OCCASION AS WE CELEBRATE THE ELEVEN-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SETTLEMENT OF ICELAND. ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON AND ON BEHALF OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, I WISH TO CONVEY OUR WARMEST GREETINGS AND HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PROUD PEOPLE OF ICELAND ON HAVING REACHED THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THEIR LONG AND COLORFUL HISTORY. THE UNITED STATES IS ITSELF APPROACHING THE TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, AND WE WELL UNDERSTAND, EVEN FROM OUR RELATIVELY BRIEF SPAN OF HISTORY, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EVENTS WHICH ARE UNFOLDING BEFORE US TODAY HERE AT THINGVELLIR. (PRONOUNCED THING'VEDLIR)

2. QUOTE THESE PAST ELEVEN HUNDRED YEARS HAVE

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ESTABLISHED AN HEROIC HERITAGE FOR ICELAND OF WHICH ALL

ICELANDERS -- INDEED ALL MEN EVERYWHERE WHO VALUE FREEDOM
AND PERSEVERANCE -- CAN BE PROUD. THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS

OF LEIF ERIKSON (LAF E'RICK SON) AND HIS INTREPID CREW OF
NORSE EXPLORERS WHO BRAVED THE ROUGH WATERS OF THE ATLANTIC
TO FIRST DISCOVER THE NEW WORLD NEARLY ONE THOUSAND YEARS
AGO HAVE LONG SERVED AS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR OTHERS
WHO HAVE PUSHED BACK THE FRONTIERS OF OUR WORLD. FOR US
WHO NOW LIVE IN LEIF'S VINLAND (VEEN LAND), THE SAGAS OF
HIS DISCOVERY AND OF THE LATER EXPLORATIONS OF THORFINNUR
KARLSEFNI (THOR' FIN ER KARLS' EBNI) AND OTHERS ARE OF
PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE AND ARE A CAUSE FOR THE
DEEPEST RESPECT FOR THESE MEN AND THEIR ICELANDIC DESCEND-
ANTS.

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3. QUOTE EVEN BEFORE LEIF'S HISTORIC VOYAGE, THE FAR-
SIGHTED AND DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE OF ICELAND HAD CREATED THE
ALTHING, MAKING IT NOW THE OLDEST SITTING PARLIAMENT IN
THE WORLD. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO TAKE PART IN
TODAY'S SESSION OF THE ALTHING FOR IT SHOWS THAT THE FINE
LEGISLATORS OF ICELAND ARE FAITHFULLY FULFILLING THE TRUST
OF THEIR FOREBEARERS. THEREFORE, JUST AS LEIF ERIKSON'S
EXPEDITION IS A UNIQUE LANDMARK IN MAN'S QUEST FOR KNOWL-
EDGE, SO THE ALTHING STANDS AS A MONUMENT TO THOSE DEMO-
CRATIC VALUES WHICH WE IN THE WEST HOLD SO DEAR.

4. QUOTE DURING THE YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD THE
PLEASURE OF WORKING IN CLOSE ALLIANCE AND HARMONY WITH
ICELAND AND ITS PEOPLE. THE FRATERNITY OF ATLANTIC NATIONS
HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF THIS COOPERATION. SHARED THREATS
IN THE LAST WAR BROUGHT OUR TWO COUNTRIES TOGETHER IN A
RELATIONSHIP THAT BORE THE FRUITS OF PEACE. MUTUAL POST-
WAR NEEDS HAVE MAINTAINED OUR KINSHIP AND HAVE SEEN IT
BLOSSOM INTO ONE OF PROFOUND FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT. THIS
AFFINITY HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY OUR EXTENSIVE TRADE ASSOCIA-
TION WHICH MAKES ICELAND A VALUED ECONOMIC PARTNER.
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, OFTEN BASED UPON THE UNIQUE
CLIMATIC AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS THAT EXIST IN ICELAND,
HAS BEEN MOST BENEFICIAL IN ADVANCING MAN'S KNOWLEDGE ND
UNDERSTANDING OF OUR WORLD -- AND INDEED OUR UNIVERSE. WE
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ARE PROUD THAT ICELAND CONTRIBUTED TO MAN'S FIRST TRIP TO
THE MOON, HAVING PERMITTED OUR ASTRONAUTS TO PRACTICE THEIR
SKILLS IN AN UNUSUAL AREA OF VOLCANIC REMAINS SET AMID THE
INCREDIBLE NATURAL BEAUTIES OF YOUR LAND.

5. QUOTE THERE ARE NO TIES WHICH THE UNITED STATES PRIZES
MORE HIGHLY THAN THOSE THAT WE SHARE WITH ICELAND. I AM
CERTAIN AS I STAND HERE TODAY IN THIS BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORIC

SETTING THAT THE WEALTH OF GOODWILL THAT HAS LONG EXISTED
BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER
IN THE YEARS THAT LIE AHEAD -- AT LEAST ELEVEN HUNDRED
MORE. UNQUOTE

6. ANY SUGGESTIONS WILL BE WELCOME. INGERSOLL

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